

Preaching Dates

Sunday 12 April 2020

Glen Cartwright (am) at Fusion for Newton Mearns Baptist Church young people with the GoVoke app.

Stephen Ilett (am) will be providing, via email, a written sermon and prayers for Dingwall Baptist Church for this Sunday and next Sunday

Willem Smit (am) via a pre-recorded online sermon for Lossiemouth Baptist Church

Charles Sommerville (pm) via Zoom at Kelty Evangelical Church for next seven Sundays

Sylvia Jones preparing another short 'thought for the day' for Galashiels Baptist Church that will be used sometime this incoming week.



"Picture This – An Empty Tomb"

By Kenneth Forrest

"He is not here; He has risen just as He said. Come and see the place where He lay." (Matthew 28:6).

During this time of staying in the house, I have been doing jigsaws. It's clear from studying the picture where some of the pieces fit, but others - such as large areas of sea, sky or trees – are harder to place together. Sometimes I got frustrated at why a piece would not fit into another one, when – according to what I thought – it should. But eventually the pieces came together, even though sometimes I thought they never would!

Perhaps it was a bit like that for Mary Magdalene and the other Mary who went to look for Jesus' body after He had been crucified. They thought that they would find Him lying in a tomb. That was how – even though they had followed Him – they thought His life would end; and how the picture He had left them with would be completed.

The earlier verses tell us not only what they assumed they would find, but how frightened they were when they did not find Jesus in the tomb. But the angel of the Lord explained how this picture represented not their assumptions but what Jesus had said would happen.

No one today could have predicted even a month ago that most of the world would be in the grip of a rapidly spreading disease or that our whole way of life would be affected. It is a picture that seems bleak and it does not seem clear when or how it will be completed.

But as we celebrate the risen Christ this Easter, let us rejoice with the first witnesses to the resurrection: and give thanks that He knows the bigger picture; that He will do just as He said; and that the picture He has for the world is not the one that we may have, but one in which He will be with us always.

If the last words in this Chapter of Matthew's gospel assure us that this will be to the very end of the age, we can be sure that He will bring us safely out of this present time.

Hallelujah Christ is risen!! He is risen indeed!